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Elementary Social Science. By FRANK M. LEAVITT and EDITH BROWN. New York: Macmillan, 1917. Pp. vii+142.

The primary purpose of the book is to furnish instruction for "that large group of pupils who leave school and enter upon their occupations without completing a four-year high-school course." That is, the studies are to be made in the grades. Six chapters are devoted to matters primarily economic, four to problems commonly called "social," and one to a "few facts of political science." The subject-matter is interesting, the language simple.

The real question is whether the authors have selected matter both of vital public concern and within the purview of students in elementary schools. The reviewer answers "yes." The chapters on economics stress conditions of making a living, a matter that appeals easily and directly to the youth in the grades. The real human questions of economics are emphasized. The "social" matters considered are public education, promotion of public health, promotion of morality, each a theme vitally interesting and easily understood. The one chapter on "Political Science" treats functionally such subjects as constitutional rights, administration, taxation.

A scientist may quarrel with the apparently subordinate position of sociology and the separation of "social" from economic, but for the purposes of the book this matter is of no importance.

Of the following two sentences the first should be omitted for three reasons: (1) it seems cynical, (2) it is not true, (3) the needed statement is fully made in the second sentence. "It seems to be human nature for a man to get more than his share of good things if he can. History shows that there are almost always individuals in any community who will usurp the rights of others unless they are held back."

The reviewer believes in this book. It is another sign of the breakdown of the educational priesthood that would regard all social knowledge as occult and therefore not for the people. We predict a growing appreciation of the work and an increase in publications of this type.

J. T. HOUSE

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL
WAYNE, NEBRASKA